Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach & Bishop Bay–Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancies

Management Plan

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Haisla Nation

Gitga'at First Nation

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Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach & Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancies Management Plan

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Plan Highlights

Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy and Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy are located 30 km east of Hartley Bay and 65 km south of Kitimat. Together they cover 3,387 ha, including 2,837 ha of land and 550 ha of foreshore within 200 metres of the high tide line[1]. It is within the traditional territory of the Gitga'at and Haisla First Nations and the Gitxaala First Nation has recently identified an interest. The conservancy has high cultural and coastal marine values, including a popular hot spring, shellfish beds, and a protected anchorage that is popular with mariners.

This management plan identifies objectives and strategies that focus on:

- Maintaining representative flora and fauna, protecting plant communities and animal species at risk, and protecting special features in both terrestrial and marine environments;
- Protecting historically and currently used First Nation habitation, harvesting and hunting areas and associated cultural and biological values,[2] and providing for and promoting present and future First Nations access to those areas and activities;
- Maintaining and enhancing an important regional recreational facility; and,
- Protecting and providing wilderness-based boating, kayaking, salt-water angling, camping, picnicking and day-hiking opportunities.

[1] Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy covers 2,832 ha of land and 542 ha of foreshore, and Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy covers 5 ha of land and 8 ha of foreshore.

[2] See Turner, N.J. 2007. Importance of Biodiversity for First Peoples of British Columbia. Paper prepared for the Biodiversity BC Technical Subcommittee.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy and Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy[3]. The management plan:

- Describes the background and legal context of the conservancy;
- Sets out a vision, key goals and objectives for the conservancy;
- Identifies issues that may influence progress toward the goals and objectives;
- Identifies management strategies and performance measures for the conservancy;
- Defines management areas in the conservancy where specific objectives, strategies and performance measures apply; and,
- Identifies an implementation and monitoring program for the conservancy.

1.2 Planning Area

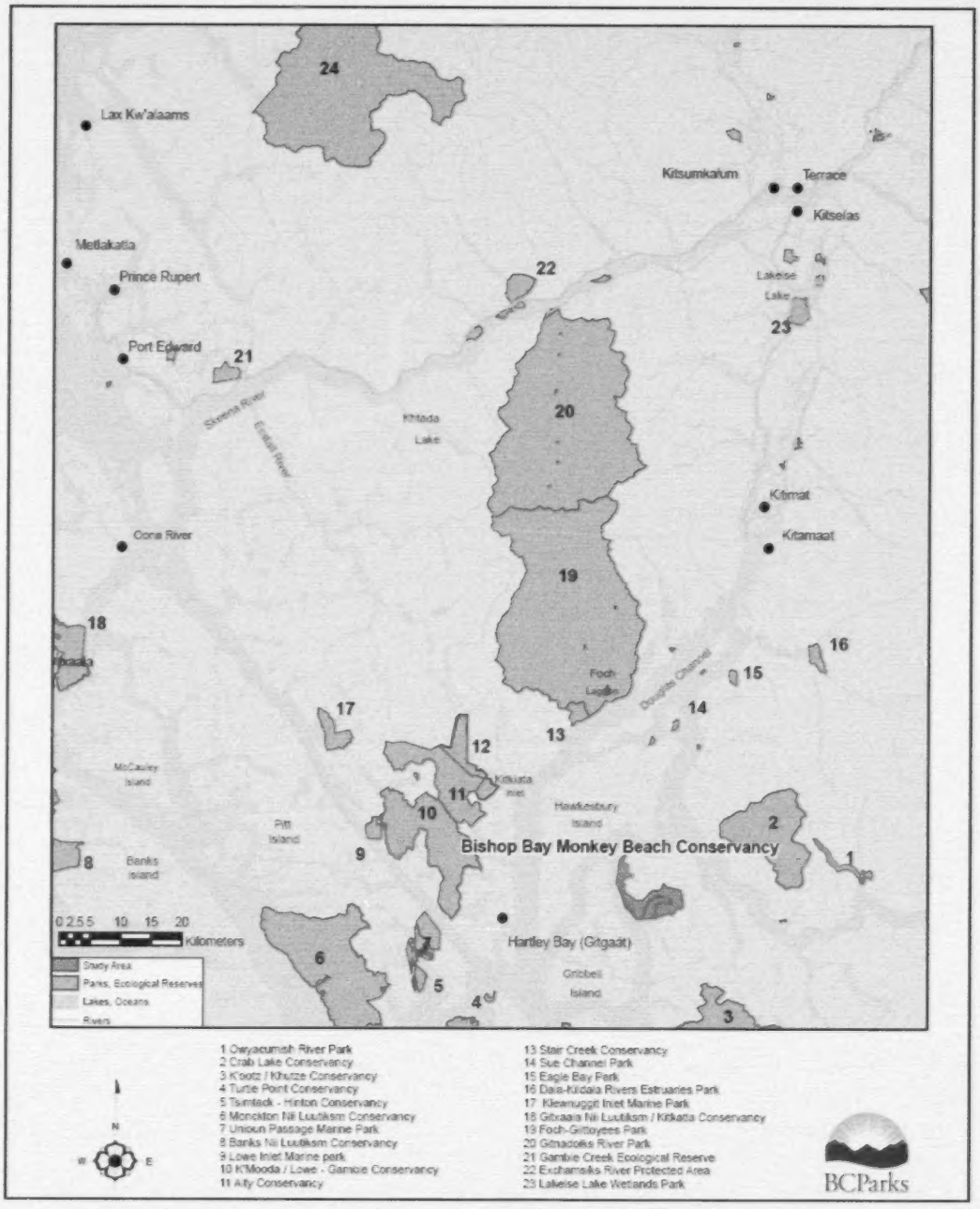
Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Conservancy and Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy are about 30 km east of Hartley Bay, 65 km south of Kitimat, and 130 km southeast of Prince Rupert (Figure 1). Marine distance is 45 kilometres to Hartley Bay, 75 kilometres to Kitimat, and 175 kilometres to Prince Rupert. The conservancies are located on the east side of Ursula Channel, opposite Gribbell Island, and include all land covered by water within 200 meters of the high tide line.

The area has been and continues to be used by First Nations people for cultural, social and economic purposes. The conservancy protects the popular Bishop Bay Hot Springs; facilities include a dock, boardwalk, tent platforms, picnic shelter, bathhouse, composting pit toilet and 2 mooring buoys.

Access to the conservancy is primarily by boat and a dock is located near the hot springs to assist access. Floatplane access is also possible.

[3] From here on in the plan the terms "Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Conservancy" and "conservancy" refer to both Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy and Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy.

Figure 1: Regional Context Map



1.3 Legislative Framework and Management Commitments

Designation:

The Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy was first identified as a potential protected area as part of the Regional Protected Areas Overview Strategy and community consultation process, completed in the mid-1990s. Recommendations to protect the area were then discussed during the North Coast Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process. When First Nations tabled their interests, the recommended boundaries were expanded, to include the Monkey Beach area along the eastern shores of Ursula Channel, northwest of Bishop Bay. The proposal was supported by stakeholder participants who recommended protecting Bishop Bay and Monkey Beach as part of a broader system of North Coast protected areas. The LRMP planning table identified key protected area interests including: habitat conservation, maintenance of biodiversity, ecosystem representation and function, protection of key habitats for wildlife, and preservation of special landscapes, recreation, and cultural heritage features.

Agreement to designate Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy was achieved through government-to-government land use discussions and the final signing in 2006 of a strategic land use planning agreement (SLUPA) with the First Nations.

Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy is listed in Schedule E of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act,* and is administered under the *Park Act.* Bishop Bay Conservancy was established on July 14 2006 under the *Park (Conservancy Enabling) Amendment Act, 2006.* The conservancy was expanded on May 31, 2007 by a further 675 ha, bringing the total area of the conservancy to 3,374 ha (2832 ha upland and 542 ha foreshore), and the name was changed to reflect the addition of Monkey Beach to the conservancy.

Finally on May 31, 2007 with the passage of the *Parks and Protected Areas Statutes Amendment Act, 2007* an additional 13 ha was protected as the Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy (5 ha upland and 8 ha foreshore). Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy is listed in Schedule F of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act,* and is administered under the *Park Act.* This corridor conservancy was established to protect the area's natural and cultural values while providing for continued use and upgrades of an existing road to access timber harvesting lands beyond the conservancy.

Direction Through Legislation:

Section 8 of the *Park Act* directs that any interest in land in a conservancy must be authorized by a park use permit. Section 9 directs that most uses of a natural resource in a conservancy must be authorized by a park use permit. A park use permit can only be issued if the use or activity will not hinder, restrict, prevent or inhibit the development or use of the conservancy in accordance with the four reasons for setting aside a conservancy, which are:

a) The protection and maintenance of their biological diversity and natural environments;

b) The preservation and maintenance of social, ceremonial and cultural uses of first nations;
c) The protection and maintenance of their recreation values;
d) To ensure that development or use of their natural resources occurs in a sustainable manner consistent with the purposes of paragraphs (a), (b) and(c).

The *Park Act* further states that a park use permit must not be issued to authorize commercial logging, mining, or hydro electric power generation, other than local run-of-the-river projects. "Local run-of-the-river projects" in relation to a conservancy, means run-of-the-river projects supplying power for use (a) in the conservancy, or (b) by communities, including first nation communities, that do not otherwise have access to hydro electric power.

Management Commitments:
The Ministry of Environment has signed Collaborative Management Agreements (CMA) with the Gitga'at and the Gitxaala First Nations, and is negotiating one with the Haisla First Nation. CMAs define how the First Nations and the Ministry of Environment will collaborate to prepare management plans for Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Conservancy and other conservancies. The CMAs also establish a commitment to identify and provide First Nations with enhanced access to economic opportunities within Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy. The CMA's also provide for a collaborative approach to conservancy management, in which the Ministry's Park Ranger Program and First Nations' Watchman Programs may cooperate to implement this management plan. Administratively, park use permits are jointly reviewed by relevant First Nations and the Ministry of Environment, with issuance by the Ministry in accordance with the *Park Act*.

1.4 Planning Process

First Nations and the Ministry of Environment initiated management planning for Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy in 2007. In March 2007, an open house was held in Prince Rupert for the purpose of collecting public input regarding management issues within the north coast conservancies.

In May 2007, the Ministry of Environment and three regional First Nation forums (Coastal First Nations, North Coast First Nations and Nanwokalas) developed policy guidelines and a template for preparing conservancy management plans. This plan is based on that format and integrates information and direction from signed First Nation – Provincial agreements.

Over the course of 2007 and 2008 the Gitga'at and Haisla First Nations compiled community interests and concerns related to Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Conservancy based on community discussions and interviews, and using existing First Nation Tourism Plans, First Nation Land Use Plans and available traditional use information. Gitxaala First Nation is also engaged with the Province and has received copies of the draft documents, but has been focussed on protected areas closer to Dolphin Island. First Nations and the Ministry of

Environment continue to explore best available processes and techniques for the development of management plans.

In 2009, public review drafts were shared at open houses held in Kitimat and Prince Rupert. The public review draft was also posted in the spring of 2011 to the BC Parks website for broader comment and circulation.

1.5 Community Involvement

The Gitga'at village of Hartley Bay, and the Haisla village of Kitamaat are the closest aboriginal communities to Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy.

The closest non-aboriginal municipal government is in Kitimat (65 km to the north). The conservancy is also within the Kitimat Stikine Regional District whose offices are in Terrace (120 kilometres to the north).

Ongoing engagement and outreach with aboriginal and non-aboriginal local communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of and supportive of the system of north coast protected areas including Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy.

Provincial and local recreational and environmental groups will be interested in discussing and sharing ideas on the recreational use and development of the sheltered bays. The interests of other communities and user groups will be addressed through management plan review and comment processes and through ongoing outreach activities associated with conservancy management operations.

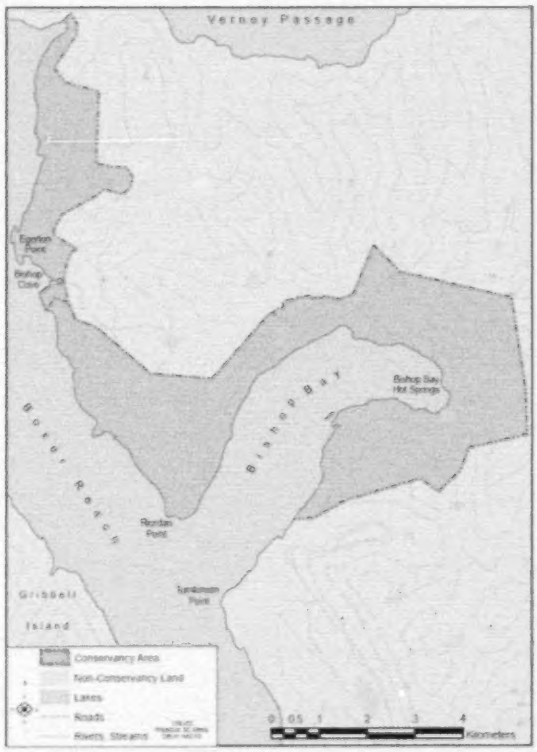


Figure 2: Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Conservancy

Collaboration between the Ministry of Environment's North Coast Park Ranger program and existing and proposed First Nations Watchman Programs, along with community outreach activities, will help to increase First Nation and non-aboriginal community awareness and engagement in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy management activities (Figure 2).

2.0 Role of the Conservancies

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Bishop Bay-Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy is important in the parks and protected areas system because it:

- Protects an important First Nations cultural harvesting site associated with Monkey Beach
- Protects and provides for the ongoing use and enjoyment of an important recreational hot spring and associated facilities

2.2 Preservation and Maintenance of First Nation Use

Values

First Nation people have historically collected food and materials from Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach. Intertidal areas at Monkey Beach are very important to the Haisla First Nation for the harvest of clams and cockles.

Archaeological values within Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy are high. There are five archaeological sites registered with the BC Archaeological Branch in the conservancy. The registered archaeological sites protect plank house depressions, shell middens and pictographs. The conservancy contains additional cultural and heritage sites of importance to the local First Nations.

Specific information provided by the Haisla indicate that this is a traditional Haisla stewardship area, Wa'wais, but is so important to Haisla subsistence that much of the area is treated as Bagwaiyas, such that all Haisla members may use the area with shared stewardship obligations. The area was extensively used for the harvest and processing of various marine and terrestrial resources. Many old campsites and homesteads have been documented in the area. Shellfish were the most important resource harvested. This is evident from the many shells found along the shores of Monkey Beach. The name Monkey Beach comes from First Nation's sightings of Bukwus (Sasquatch) in the area.

Role

Protection of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy will help preserve and maintain the ongoing social, ceremonial and cultural use of First Nations, focusing on protecting historical and current habitation, harvesting and hunting areas and activities and their associated

cultural and biological values,[4] and on providing for and promoting present and future First Nations' access to those areas and activities for social, ceremonial and cultural purposes.

2.3 Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Values

Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy is located within the Kitimat Ranges and North Coast Fjords ecosections. The terrain contains massive rounded granitic mountains that are dissected by numerous fiords. Temperate rainforests dominated by western hemlock, western red cedar, amabilis fir, and Sitka spruce cover the lower slopes, with mountain hemlock, yellow cedar and amabilis fir at high elevations; deciduous trees are uncommon. The conservancy includes a good representation of highly productive forests on rich metamorphic rock. Floodplains and estuaries are important wildlife areas.

Most of the conservancy is classed according to the province's Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) classification system as either Coastal Western Hemlock, Submontane Very Wet Maritime (CWHvm1&2) or Coastal Western Hemlock, Central Very Wet Hypermaritime (CWHvh2), with Mountain Hemlock, moist maritime (MHmm) and Mountain Hemlock wet hypermaritime (MHwh) also occurring (Table 1).[5] Overall these ecosystems are well represented elsewhere in the provincial protected areas system, and Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy makes a very minor contribution to this representation. It is expected that, outside of the immediate vicinity of the hot springs facilities and that of the Corridor Conservancy, these ecosystems will continue to evolve in a largely undisturbed state.

Some forest harvesting was conducted in the past along the shores of Ursula Channel in the conservancy. Some of the forest harvesting in this area is over 60 years old. Other harvested sites (20 - 30 years old) have second growth cedar-dominated stands; Cedar regenerated on these sites because they were clearcut and slash burned. These second growth cedar stands provide a good opportunity to study sites with good cedar regeneration, which would be useful in developing regeneration strategies for other areas on the coast.

An inventory of plant communities at risk has not been conducted; however, Predictive Ecosystem Mapping (PEM) predicts that one plant community at risk may be present in the conservancy:

- Western hemlock - Western red cedar / Salal (CWHvm2/03, Blue-listed, S3) – which occurs on bedrock outcrops.

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[4] See Turner, N.J. 2007. Importance of Biodiversity for First Peoples of British Columbia. Paper prepared for the Biodiversity BC Technical Subcommittee.

[5] For further information see: "A field guide to site identification and interpretation for the Prince Rupert Forest Region", Banner, A., W. MacKenzie, S. Haeussler, S. Thomson, J. Pojar and R. Trowbridge, B.C. Ministry of Forests Research Branch, 1993, Land Management Handbook. No. 26.

Table 1: Biogeoclimatic Subzone Representation

Biogeoclimatic Subzone (BGC)	Area of this BGC Code in the conservancy (ha)[6]	Total province-wide protected area in this BGC Code (ha)	% of this BGC Code in this Protected Area	% of the province-wide protected area in this BGC code in this Protected Area
CWHvh2	**1,151**	1,637,158	0.0703%	0.1886%
CWHvm1	**1,011**	2,017,377	0.0501%	0.3452%
CWHvm2	**607**	1,374,148	0.0442%	0.2225%
MHmm1	**34**	1,597,639	0.0021%	0.0078%
MHmmp	**12**	224,476	0.0053%	0.0172%
MHwh1	**9**	119,537	0.0075%	0.0217%
Water- Fresh	**18**	2,726,774	0.0007%	0.0041%

The marine portion of the conservancy is in the North Coast Fjords Marine Ecosection, and protects 550 hectares of this 960,000 hectare ecosection. According to the Valued Marine Environments and/or Features database[7], the island's foreshore and marine environments provide high value habitat for a number of important marine wildlife species (Table 2). Known areas of importance for intertidal resources include Monkey Beach, which supports shellfish beds that are important to First Nations, and regularly used by Haisla members.

The shoreline of the conservancy has supported herring spawning on several occasions, at Riordan Point (one record) and in Bishop Bay (several records). Dall's porpoise, humpback whale, and killer whale have been recorded in the Monkey Beach area and in Bishop Bay.

Table 2: Valued Marine Environments and/or Features Database

Species	Value Marine Ecosystems Rating
Harbour Porpoise	Medium to High
Humpback Whale	Medium
Killer Whale	Medium
Bald Eagles	Low
Other Waterfowl	Low

[6] Due to differences in mapping scales and intersection with marine waters totals may not match park land area totals.

[7] The Valued Marine Environments and/or Features Database was developed to identify key values warranting marine protection status. An overview report on the database and the objectives is available at ftp://ftp.gis.luco.gov.bc.ca/pub/coastal/rpts/overview.pdf

Four wildlife species at risk have been recorded in or near the conservancy:

- Humpback Whale (Blue-listed, S1N);
- Killer Whale (Red- or Blue-listed, S2 or S3 depending on sub-species);
- Marbled Murrelet (Red-listed, S2B S4N) - The conservancy contains 19 ha of good marbled murrelet habitat which, although small, may provide important habitat when combined with core marbled murrelet habitat in nearby areas. The habitat should not be disturbed by conservancy u[illegible] and development and,
- Grizzly Bear (Blue-listed, S3) - Grizzly bears use parts of the conservancy but it is not large enough to protect a population of grizzly bears. The hunting of grizzly bears throughout the grizzly bear population unit that includes the conservancy is not permitted, as the area is formally designated as the Khutze-Kitlope-Kimsquit -Upper Dean- Tweedsmuir Grizzly Bear Management Area that resulted from Strategic Land Use Planning Agreements.

The conservancy also contains 497 ha of suitable mountain goat winter range, but use of the conservancy by mountain goats has not been confirmed.

The conservancy contains or is traversed by nine small, unnamed first- or second-order streams, and Bishop Bay Hot Springs. However, these streams are not known to contain fish.

Role

The role of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy in protecting biological diversity and natural environments is to maintain representative coastal flora and fauna with a focus on identifying and maintaining the conservancy's plant communities and species at risk, and protecting special features including the hot springs. The remote location of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy provides an excellent opportunity for maintaining biological diversity and natural environment values.

2.4 Recreation

Values

The wilderness-based recreation and tourism opportunities in this conservancy are enhanced because of its proximity to main marine navigation routes and other marine based protected areas including: K'lgaan/Klekane Conservancy, 25 km to the south; Moksgm'ol/Chapple - Cornwall Conservancy, 30 km to the south; and Sue Channel Provincial Park, 25 km to the north. Together, these and other protected areas provide a coastal network of protected areas with marine access and marine-based recreation opportunities.

Bishop Bay is classified as a boat Haven by the Council of BC Yacht Clubs. Bishop Bay also contains a very popular hot spring. Use of the conservancy is mostly at the Bishop Bay hot springs, which saw 5,700 visitors in 2008. The hot spring is one of several in the region; other developed hot springs are atWeewanie Hot Springs Provincial Park, and Shearwater Hotsprings Conservancy.

Existing facilities include a dock and ramp, bathhouse, 200 metres of boardwalk and stairs, 50 metres of pathway, three 12' x 12' tent platforms, a composting pit toilet, and 2 mooring buoys. One undeveloped picnic site is located at Monkey Beach. Additionally two 12' x 15' Haisla Nation trapline/cultural cabins have been constructed in the Monkey Beach/Bishop Cove area and they are posted as being available for recreational use when not used by the First Nation.

Recreational harvest of shellfish remains closed due to biotoxin/red-tide concerns and any future use would need to respect First Nation and conservation needs.

Existing tourism and recreation tenures are:

- SK0710579 Commercial Recreation Tours (King Pacific Lodge - jet boat, helicopter access);
- SK08116325 Commercial Recreation Tours (Ocean Adventures Charter Co. Ltd.);
- SK08116405 Commercial Recreation Tours (Mothership Adventures Inc - mothership with kayak eco excursions) - pending ;
- SK08116418 Commercial Recreation Tours (Bluewater Adventures Inc) –pending;
- Application 103369 Commercial Recreation Tours (Kitamaat Village Council) – pending;
- Guide Certificate 609G007 includes Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy; and,
- Trapline 603T063 encompasses the conservancy

A number of other commercial operators utilize the hot springs as an adjunct to tourism and fishing charters.

In the Valued Marine Environments and/or Features database, the marine areas around Bishop Bay/Monkey Beach are rated as medium for SCUBA diving.

The conservancy lies within Department of Fisheries and Oceans statistical Management Area 6-3 and within Ministry of Environment Wildlife Management Unit 6-3.

Role

The role of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy is to protect a popular hot spring and anchorage near the Inside Passage, and provide for wilderness-based camping, boating, picnicking, kayaking and salt-water angling.

2.5 Development and Use of Natural Resources

Values

A high demand for commercial/industrial use of resources in the conservancy is unlikely other than for use of the logging road through Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy to access forest harvest sites beyond. It is expected that economic initiatives will be activities related primarily to use of the area for nature and cultural-based tourism.

One permit exists for the development and use of natural resources:

- SK08116538 Logging Road in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy

The adjacent marine waters are used by angling guides, commercial fishermen and commercial marine invertebrate and kelp harvesters. Nearby, the Inside Passage is used extensively by cruise ships, cargo ships, ferries and private vessels heading to/from Alaska.

Role

The role of Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy in providing for the development and use of natural resources is focused on providing and supporting public and commercial use of a sheltered anchorage and preserving associated recreational opportunities.

Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy plays an important role in providing opportunities for the development and use of natural resources through the maintenance of logging road access to timber harvesting lands beyond the conservancy. First Nations have also indicated an interest tied to treaty in the adjacent uplands.

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Vision

Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Conservancy protects and sustains First Nations' social, ceremonial and cultural values and uses. The conservancy also maintains the integrity of the terrestrial and intertidal ecosystems and special features. Importantly, the conservancy protects for the ongoing use and enjoyment of all British Columbians an important recreational hot spring and associated infrastructure.

3.2 Management Goals and Objectives

The priority management goals for Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy are related to the conservancy purposes established in the *Park Act*, tailored to the specific values found in Bishop Bay and Monkey Beach and to the role this protected area plays in the broader system of protected areas (Table 3). Management objectives establish more specific

direction from which current issues are evaluated against and from which management strategies for the conservancy are identified.

Table 3: Management Goals and Objectives

Overall Management Goals	General Management Objectives are to:
Protect and Maintain the Diversity of Terrestrial and Intertidal Ecosystems	• Identify and protect regionally rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species • Identify and protect special ecological features in both terrestrial and marine environments. • Sustain the productivity of shellfish beds
Preserve and Maintain First Nation Social, Ceremonial and Cultural Uses	• Identify, protect and maintain First Nations' cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features. • Identify, protect and maintain archaeological and historic sites. • Identify, provide for and promote First Nations traditional and sustenance uses and harvesting activities.
Assess, Maintain and Enhance Recreational Values and Uses	• Identify and enhance wilderness recreation values and facilities. • Provide a quality visitor experience at the hot springs. • Provide visitors with cultural and wilderness recreation opportunities. • Provide a safe visitor experience.
Provide for Compatible Development and Use of Natural Resources	• Ensure the Schedule F Corridor Conservancy provides an opportunity to access resources upland and adjacent to the Conservancy • Identify and allocate commercial opportunities to assist local economic diversification, particularly of area First Nations. • Provide for the delivery of economic benefits associated with tourism to both provincial and local operators.

3.3 Management issues, Strategies and Performance Measures

Based on the purpose, roles, vision and goals identified for the conservancy, and through analysis of key issues that may affect achievement of stated objectives, management strategies for each objective listed above have been identified.

Biological Diversity and Natural Environment

Key issues that may affect achievement of stated biological diversity objectives in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy relate primarily to lack of detailed inventories and potential impacts from recreational use within the conservancy. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 4).

Table 4 – Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures for Biological Diversity

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify and protect regionally rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Inventory of rare ecosystems, plant and intertidal communities and terrestrial and marine species is incomplete.	Inventory terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems, communities and species, focusing on rare and at risk ecosystems, communities and species.	Completed inventories of rare and at risk terrestrial, intertidal and marine ecosystems, ecological communities and species.
	Public and commercial access and use may cause site-level disturbance or cause declines in the abundance and distribution of rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Where necessary, limit public and commercial access to protect rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species.	Protective measures implemented, as appropriate: - signs prohibiting harvesting and access; - marking areas with rare communities as off-limits; and, - distribute maps showing prohibited areas.
Identify and protect special ecological features in both terrestrial and marine environments.	Inventory of special ecological features within the conservancy is incomplete.	Conduct inventories of the special ecological features in the conservancy.	Completed inventories of special ecological features.
	Public and commercial access and use may disturb special ecological features.	If disturbance causes undue impacts, establish specific "no-go" areas.	Protective measures implemented, as appropriate: - marking areas with special ecological features as as off-limits; and, - distribute maps showing prohibited areas.
Sustain the productivity of shellfish beds	Harvesting activity may adversely impact populations of inter-tidal and sub-tidal species.	Subject to jurisdiction, do not permit commercial harvest of clams and cockles in the Special Management Zone - Monkey Beach Culture Use Area.	First Nation traditional harvest needs are met[8]. Historic levels of clam distribution and abundance are achieved.

[8] Shellfish harvesting in the North Coast has been closed due to insufficient biotoxin monitoring. The Ministry is unable to encourage or sanction harvest of clams while the area is officially closed due to biotoxin concerns.

First Nations Social, Ceremonial and Cultural Uses

Key issues that may affect achievement of stated First Nations cultural objectives in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy relate primarily to lack of detailed inventories and potential impacts from recreational use and commercial harvesting within the conservancy. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 5).

Table 5 – Objectives, Issues, Strategies and Results for First Nations Cultural Use

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Identify, protect and maintain First Nations cultural heritage sites and features.	First Nations cultural heritage sites and features are not well documented.	Perform historical and ethnographic research, and cultural heritage field inventories.	Completed historical and ethnographic research and cultural heritage field inventories.
	Public and commercial conservancy access and use may disturb cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features.	Monitor and document disturbance or change to First Nations cultural heritage and traditional use sites and features; implement protection and maintenance measures as required.	Cultural heritage sites and features mapped and protective measures implemented .
	Oral history and traditional ecological knowledge are not fully known, especially related to Bukwus (Sasquatch).	Work with First Nations to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and oral history in conservancy management.	Traditional knowledge documented and considered in conservancy management.
	The Haisla have two trapline/cultural cabins that are used by First Nations. Use of these cabins has the potential to increase damage to nearby cultural and cultural harvest sites.	Support Haisla efforts to maintain these cabins principally for cultural uses, consider First Nations tourism use as part of enhanced access to economic opportunities. The areas have been posted by the Haisla as available for recreational use when not needed for First Nations purposes. Support this policy provided that the cultural resources are not impacted; however, if impacts are identified limit tourism and recreational use.	Cultural sites and cultural harvest sites are maintained. First Nation facilities are maintained.
Identify, protect and maintain archaeological and historic sites.	Historic/archaeological sites not well inventoried or documented.	Perform reconnaissance and site-level historical/archaeological field assessments in conjunction with any cultural heritage field inventories.	Completed reconnaissance and site-level historical site assessments.
		Support efforts from colleges and universities to performstudies	
	Public and commercial access and use may disturb or have an adverse effect on archaeological and historic sites.	Monitor and document disturbance and change to identified archaeological/historic sites; implement site specific protective and maintenance measures as required.	Historic and archaeological sites mapped and protected.
Provide for and promote First Nation traditional and sustenance uses and harvesting activities.	First Nations traditional and sustenance harvesting activities are not well documented.	Support efforts to identify and monitor traditional and sustenance harvesting activities.	Completed inventories of traditional use and subsistence harvesting areas.
	Recreational and commercial harvesting can impact abundance of traditional resources.	Support efforts to establish a baseline clam population and monitor harvest levels over time.	Baseline inventories completed; monitoring indicates stable population levels.
	Lack of resources for maintaining	Support First Nation efforts to	First Nation knowledge increased.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
	and enhancing traditional knowledge and harvesting practices.	enhance traditional knowledge and harvesting practices.	
	Spills, sewage and other disturbance from commercial marine transportation and recreation boating activity may contaminate intertidal and subtidal areas.	Support water quality monitoring program efforts while recognizing the Department of Fisheries and Oceans principal role in this effort.	Water quality monitoring program implemented.
		As appropriate, use pamphlets or other communication material to ensure bilges and sewage are not discharged in or around the clam beds.	

Recreation Value Management

Key issues that may affect achievement of stated recreational value objectives in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy relate primarily to use of the facilities at Bishop Bay Hot Springs. Specific concerns related to the use of facilities centre around relatively high use levels and competition for use of the hot springs and associated infrastructure such as the dock and ramp. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 6).

Table 6 – Objectives, Issues, Results and Strategies for Recreation

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Provide a quality visitor experience at the hot springs & Identify and enhance wilderness recreation values and facilities & Provide a safe visitor experience	Incomplete knowledge of recreational opportunities and current use of the conservancy.	First Nations Watchman and Ministry of Environment Park Rangers to monitor recreational use in the conservancy to establish baseline use levels.	Baseline use levels determined
		Implement a Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) assessment.	BRIM assessments completed every three years.
	The available dock space is often utilized, creating difficulty accessing the upland facilities.	Encourage, and if problems persist, require, larger vessels to anchor in the bay and use tenders to access the Bishop Bay dock. Restrictions on length of time at the dock should be considered if the issue persists.	Visitors are satisfied with their experience.
	Overcrowding of hot springs could impact the quality of visitors experience.	Ensure facilities are in keeping with the capacity of the hot springs and the natural setting of the hot springs.	Visitors are satisfied with their experience.
	Recreational users are concerned about displacement from commercial operators.	Should commercial demand exceed available opportunities, allocate new opportunities and	Reports of conflicts between commercial users and recreational users are low.

Objective	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
		renewals based on a Request for Proposal process.	
	Anchoring in Bishop Bay is challenging due to depth and substrate in the bay.	Mooring buoys have been installed and the long term availability of these buoys will be evaluated as part of the capital and maintenance process.	Options developed in conjunction with area users. Reduced conflict for dock space.
	The marine boundaries in Bishop Bay are 200 metres offset from the natural boundary while much of the recreational anchoring and buoy use is beyond 200m.	Consider the recreational and ecological values within Bishop Bay and discuss boundary options with other agencies and either confirm or recommend a new marine boundary option within Bishop Bay.	Analysis complete and recommendation on marine boundary made.
	The current level of site maintenance may not be meeting visitor expectations, and site vandalism poses a risk to visitor facilities.	Consider implementing a park facility operator type arrangement with First Nations for maintenance. Options range from basic maintenance to onsite presence based on cost recovery.	The hot spring facilities are properly maintained preferably based on an arrangement with First Nations.
	Commercial air access (i.e. helicopters and floatplanes) may disturb public recreation use.	Do not issue new permits for air access for commercial recreation purposes to the main hot springs site.	New commercial permits for aircraft access not issued.
Provide visitors with cultural and wilderness recreation opportunities.	First Nations are developing ecotourism businesses in their traditional territories.	Support and reserve permit opportunities for First Nation tourism businesses.	Opportunities available and utilized. Should commercial demand exceed available opportunities allocate new opportunities and renewals based on a Request for Proposal process.
	First Nations may be interested in redeveloping a historical trail between the Paril River and Bishop Bay.	Collaboratively work with First Nations and with the Forest Service outside of the conservancy to support the trail development.	Opportunity investigated, and subject to First Nation interest and an environmental assessment, project is supported.

Natural Resource Development and Use

Key issues that may affect achievement of stated resource development and use objectives in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy relate primarily to providing economic benefits to local communities and by allowing access through the Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy to resources beyond. Identified strategies focus on resolving or managing these issues (Table 7).

Table 7 - Objectives, Issues, Results and Strategies for Natural Resource Development

Objective Is to:	Issue	Strategy	Performance Measure
Provide for the delivery of economic benefits associated with tourism to both provincial and local operators & Identify and allocate commercial opportunities to assist local economic diversification, particularly of area First Nations	First Nations are developing and implementing a cultural and wildlife viewing tourism enterprise.	Permit and support development of cultural and wildlife viewing tourism activities in the conservancy.	Increased operations and guiding revenues to First Nation tourism operators.
	Commercial tourism operators both locally and provincially have an interest in accessing the conservancy.	Encourage commercial tourism operators to establish mutually beneficial arrangements/partnerships with First Nations.	
		Allocate commercial opportunities to assist local and provincial economic diversification.	Opportunities for commercial/eco-tourism use of the hot springs.
	Commercial services (e.g., fuel station, marina, accommodation) in Hartley Bay are underutilized.	Encourage recreational and commercial users of the conservancy to utilize local services.	Information signage at Bishop Bay provides information of the services available nearby.
• Ensure the Schedule F Corridor Conservancy provides an opportunity to access resources upland and adjacent to the Conservancy	An existing road corridor provides access to an adjacent upland area and the area is designated to ensure access remains available. Ongoing use and development must respect the cultural and ecological values of the conservancy.	As part of the permitting process for upland use ensure that efforts are made to mitigate impacts on the environment. In particular, encourage uses that reduce or eliminate debris from entering into the intertidal zone (e.g. use barge-on-barge off operations).	Access provided and impacts to resources minimized in the Schedule F corridor.

3.4 Zoning

Zoning assists in the planning and management of protected areas. In general terms, zoning divides an area into logical units to apply consistent management objectives. The management zones identified in Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy reflect the intended land use, the acceptable level of development and use, and the level of management required.

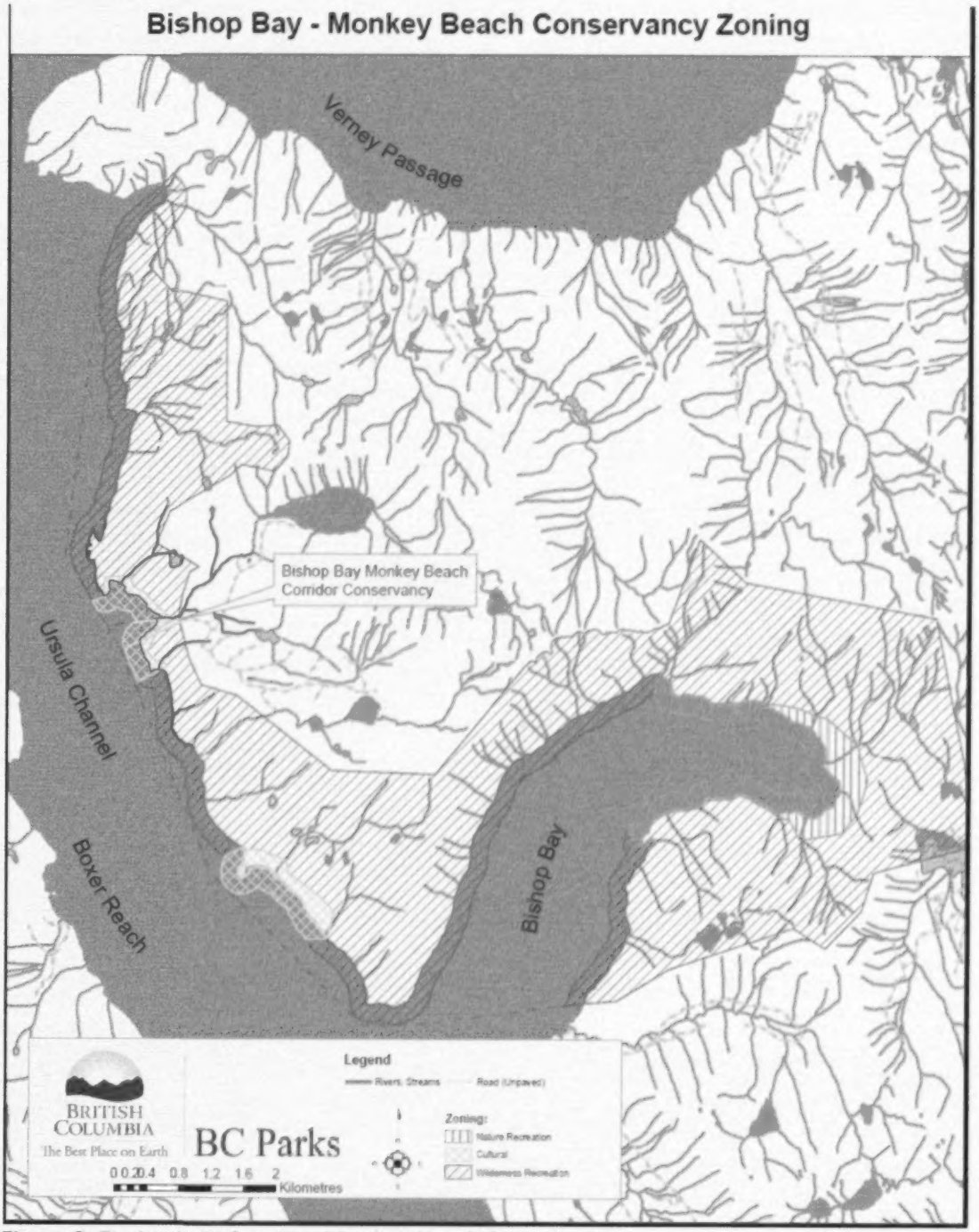

Figure 3: Zoning in Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Conservancy

The following management zones have been identified within the conservancy:

- **Cultural Zone** – area covering Monkey Beach in which the primary goal is to protect and maintain First Nations' cultural, social and ceremonial uses.
    - **Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy** – an area within the Cultural Zone where an existing logging road provides access to upland resources.
- **Nature Recreation Zone** – area encompassing Bishop Bay hot spring and the camping/picnicking facilities, dock and anchorage.
- **Wilderness Recreation Zone** – area covering the remainder of the conservancy in which the primary goal is to promote and enhance recreational values and uses.

Appropriate uses for each of the conservancy zones are identified in Appendix 1.

Cultural Zone:

The Cultural Zone covers 123 ha or 4% of the conservancy and includes the entire Bishop – Bay Monkey Beach Corridor Conservancy, and the adjacent beaches at Bishop Cove and at Monkey Beach.

Zone Description

The purpose of the Cultural Zone is to protect the shellfish beds on Monkey Beach, while sustaining and promoting traditional intertidal and subtidal harvesting activities by First Nations. This zone covers the shellfish beds and subtidal harvesting areas.

Management activities in the Cultural Use Area will focus on protecting natural and cultural values, and ensuring visitor use levels are focused on encouraging contemporary traditional use and/or understanding historic traditional use. Two existing 12 x 15 foot Haisla First Nation trapping and cultural cabins exist within this zone. Protected area management will focus on supporting First Nations cultural use of this area and these cabins. While the Haisla have allowed public recreation in these cabins, it is at the users own risk and subject to displacement by First Nations.

Management efforts will be directed to ensuring that access to this area and the use of this area occurs in such a way that the shellfish beds continue to be safe and plentiful.

Zone Management Direction

The priority for harvesting of clams and cockles will be for First Nations traditional use. Efforts will be made to support First Nations traditional use as a priority within this zone.

Within the cultural zone an existing logging access road provides access to upland resources. The Ministry of Environment and the First Nations will periodically monitor the road to determine if the road is impacting the natural, cultural or recreational value of the conservancy and work with the permittee to address identified concerns.

Nature Recreation Zone

Zone Description

The purpose of the Nature Recreation Zone is to provide nature based recreational experiences at the Bishop Bay Hot Springs. The Bishop Bay Hot Springs Nature Recreation Zone covers 201 ha or 6% of the conservancy. Facility development related to the hot springs will be within this zone, and may include accommodations for park facility operators and installation of two mooring buoys.

Zone Management Direction

The focus of this zone is on providing a quality recreational experience for conservancy visitors. The recreation values portion of Section 2.4 Management Issues, Strategies and Performance Measures provides additional detail on proposed measures to maintain a quality visitor experience accessible to the public generally while maintaining commercial recreation opportunities.

Wilderness Recreation Zone

Zone Description

The purpose of the Wilderness Recreation Zone is to establish an area within Bishop Bay Monkey Beach Conservancy in which the primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for wilderness recreation opportunities in an undisturbed natural environment. The Wilderness Recreation Areas covers 3,387 ha or 90% of the conservancy. Management activities in the Wilderness Recreation Zone will focus on providing wilderness recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed landscape.

Zone Management Direction

Management operations will be minimal as most facilities will be located in the Bishop Bay Hot Springs Nature Recreation Zone. Development contemplated in the wilderness recreation zone is restricted to a potential trails associated with the Special Management Zone and a potential route connecting Bishop Bay to the Paril watershed, east of Bishop Bay.

4.0 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Bishop Bay - Monkey Beach Conservancy Management Plan will involve working to achieve identified performance measures and to monitor key indicators that provide information about the state of the conservancy and the effectiveness of the management strategies. Performance measures and indicators are prioritized in terms of cost, feasibility and overall benefit to conservancy management.

It is expected that the First Nations Watchman and Ministry of Environment Park Ranger programs will develop and maintain collaborative work plans and operating budgets that identify timelines, responsibilities and the resources required to implement this plan.

4.1 Implementation Resources

It is expected that the Gitga'at Stewardship Program, the Haisla Watchmen and the Ministry of Environment Park Ranger programs will develop and maintain collaborative work plans and operating budgets that identify timelines, responsibilities and the resources required to implement this management plan. Ministry of Environment will make best efforts to provide sufficient funding to implement priority strategies and monitor key performance measures, subject to Provincial funding constraints. Gitga'at First Nation and the Haisla Watchmen will dedicate staff and resources as Gitga'at and Haisla First Nation conservation funding allows.

It is also expected that park use permit holders will collect and provide information related to performance measures and the overall state of the conservancy. Such requirements will be defined in approved park use permits and in any protocols between the user and the Gitga'at and Haisla First Nations.

4.2 Priority Strategies

As part of developing ongoing work plans there will be a need to prioritize strategies and performance measures. These priorities will be developed based on First Nation interests and on Ministry interests taking into account the various protected area interests within a traditional territory and within the coastal protected area operations.

First Nation Stewardship Programs and the Ministry of Environment will collaborate to prepare a summary annual report describing progress on implementation of conservancy management plans.

4.3 Management Plan Review

This management plan will be reviewed as part of annual management planning by the Ministry of Environment and the First Nations within five year. Plan implementation and strategy effectiveness will be assessed in relation to performance measures.

5.0 References

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Appendix A – Appropriate Uses

The following table lists existing and potential future uses in the Bishop Bay – Monkey Beach Conservancies. This is not an exhaustive list of uses that may be considered in this protected area.

The table is provided to summarize the uses which the management planning process has confirmed are not appropriate in conservancy. The table also gives a general indication of the management direction for other uses. The table must be reviewed in conjunction with the other sections of the management plan, including the role descriptions, vision, objectives and strategies.

Legend		
N	Not an appropriate use in this zone	• It has been confirmed during the management planning process that this use is not appropriate in this zone. • This may be an existing use which the management planning process has determined is no longer an appropriate use in this zone. The management plan details strategies for addressing this inappropriate use (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	May be an appropriate use in this zone	• This indicates that some degree or scale of this use may be appropriate. • For existing uses, the management plan will provide guidance on the appropriate level or scale of this use (e.g., direction to reduce, restrict or increase the current level of this activity) and may address specific restrictions or enhancements (e.g., capacity, appropriate sites, designated trails, purposes, party size, time of year, etc.). • For new or expanded uses, this does not constitute approval. This indicates that the use may be considered for further evaluation and possible approval (e.g., park use permit adjudication, completion of a review as part of the BC Parks' Impact Assessment Process). In some cases the appropriateness may not be confirmed until further assessments are completed.
N/A	Not an applicable use in this zone	• This is applied where it is not feasible for the use to take place in this zone (e.g., mooring buoys in a terrestrial zone).

Activity/Facility	Special Management Zone: Monkey Beach Cultural Use	Nature Recreation Zone – Bishop Bay	Wilderness Recreation Zone
Management of Biological Diversity and Natural Environment			
Exotic Insect/Disease Control	N	N	N
Fire Management (prescribed fire management)	N	N	N
Forest Insect/Disease Control	N[1]	N[1]	N[1]
Scientific Research (manipulative activities)	N	N	N
Social, Ceremonial and Cultural Uses of First Nations			
Cultural, ceremonial and social uses by First Nations	Y	Y	Y
Cultural Tourism	Y	Y	Y
Marine Invertebrate Harvesting	Y	Y	Y
Seaweed Harvesting	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recreation Value Management			
Public Aircraft Access	Y	Y	Y
Anchorages	Y	Y	Y

Activity/Facility	Allowed in Monkey Beach Cultural Use Area	Allowed in Bishop Bay Nature Recreation Area	Allowed in Wilderness Recreation Area
	Allowable Activity (Y,N,N/A)		
Recreation Value Management Continued			
Beach Activities (e.g., swimming)	Y	Y	Y
Boating (power)	Y	Y	Y
Boating (non-power)	Y	Y	Y
Camping – backcountry	Y	Y	Y
Camping – boat accessible	Y	Y	Y
Commercial Recreation	Y	Y	Y
Fishing	Y	Y	Y
Hiking/Backpacking/Walking	Y	Y	Y
Horse/Non-Exotic Pack Animal Use	N	N	N
Hunting	Y	Y	Y
Marine Invertebrate Harvesting	Y	Y	Y
MechanizedUse (non-motorized – i.e., mountain biking)	Y[9]	N/A	N
Recreational Gold Panning/Rock Hounding	N	N	N
Skiing	Y	N/A	N/A
Snowmobiling	N	N	N
Wildlife/Nature Viewing	Y	Y	Y
Backcountry Huts, Small Cabins and Shelters	Y	N	N
Boat Launches	N	N	N
Camp sites (other)	Y	Y	Y
Interpretation and Information Buildings	Y	Y	N
Trails - hiking	Y	Y	Y
Wharves/docks	Y	Y	N
Natural Resource Use Management			
Commercial Aircraft Access	Y	*[10]	Y
Angling Guiding	Y	Y	Y
Commercial Marine Invertebrate Harvesting	Y	Y	Y
Commercial Seaweed Harvesting	N	N	N
Filming (commercial)	Y	Y	Y
Guide Outfitting	Y	Y	Y
Trapping	Y	Y	Y
Facilities	Y	Y	N
Communication Sites	N	N	N
Utility Corridors (power/transmission lines and other rights-of-way)	N	N	N
Water Control Structures	N	N	N

[9] Bicycle use is permissible "on road" (i.e. within the road in the Schedule F Conservancy).

[10] See Management Direction within the document.